

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news reports and editorial comment on matters of interest to the labor movement, including the industrial, legislative, and financial news, and contains information on the labor movement.

Man is born for action; he ought to do something.—Aldrich

WHOLE NO. 1466

WILLIAM GREGG, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1939.

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer

VOL. XX, NO. 20

EDITORIALS

Extension of Social Security Benefits

The liberalization of the provisions of the Social Security Act already agreed to by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives will, when adopted by Congress, bring deserved benefits to an increased number of working men and women and their dependents.

To remedy injustices in coverage, the committee included approximately 300,000 employees in national banks, state bank members of the Federal Reserve System, and certain building and loan associations in the unemployment compensation provisions and extended the old age pension provisions to include 150,000 more workers.

Other provisions approved by the committee would increase old age pensions in the early years of the social security plan, with added benefits for widows, orphans and dependent parents.

Under the new plan, a worker next January 1 instead of January 1, 1940, will be eligible for benefits.

Chairman Duffin of the Ways and Means Committee estimated that these changes would cost \$1,000,000 to benefits during the next five years, but that the amendments would bring the payroll taxes at the present rate would decrease the cost of the program to \$1,000,000.

Under the new plan, a worker who reaches the age of 65 on January 1, 1940, and who has been paid an average of \$100 a month since the old age insurance program became effective on January 1, 1937, would be able to retire on his birthday in 1940 and receive a pension of \$25.75 a month during the rest of his life.

Under the present provisions of the Social Security Act, he would be entitled only to one lump sum payment of \$125.

In case his wife also were 65 years old, he would receive 50 per cent more, or a total of \$38.63 a month. On his death, his widow would be paid three-fourths of the amount of her husband's benefit, \$19.31, while she lived.

In addition, the amendments approved by the committee provide benefits for younger widows and minor children. In the case of a man who had earned an average of \$100 a month since January 1, 1937, and who died on January 1, 1940, his widow would receive \$19.31 a month. If she had two minor children she would be paid \$47.01 a month until the children were 16.

Such a widow, with or without children, would be entitled to an additional benefit of 65 years of age on January 1, 1940, and died not later than 1940, but was not insured, she would be entitled to a benefit of \$12.50 a month.

Children under the committee's amendments are not treated so generously. A single man with 40 years' coverage and an average monthly wage of \$100 during that period would receive \$12.50 a month under the new plan, compared with \$12.50 under the present law.

Buy California Canned Peaches

A large number of working men and women who are members of the American Federation of Labor unions and its contingent loss of wages through no fault of their own.

The unusually large crop of California peaches last year resulted in a surplus pack of more than 6,000,000 cases of canned peaches. Packers declare that this surplus stock is sold immediately it is necessary for them to reduce at least one-half the carrying operations of this year's pack crop. Such a reduction would mean a loss of \$100,000,000 to the workers, but would seriously affect the growers, whose purchasing power would be cut at least \$200,000,000.

To help this unfortunate situation, the California State Federation of Labor urges union members throughout the State to buy California peaches. Last two cases of California peaches, this liquidating the big 1938 surplus and make way for the 1939 crop.

The American Federation of Labor is now approaching the four million mark. The mobilization of this large army of union workers for only two weeks in the campaign to buy California canned peaches would remove nearly sixteen million cases from retail sale and go a long distance toward saving the day for a large number of A. F. of L. members in California.

At least two cases of California peaches would be the slogan of every A. F. of L. member until the surplus 1938 pack is wiped out. All aboard!

WPA Baby Health Stations

The wide ramifications of Works Progress Administration projects in fact tend to minimize illness in the lower income groups.

Illustrated by the report of the activities of the WPA Baby Health Service for Greater New York.

Confronted with the traditional disinclination of mothers of families who are underprivileged to allow physicians and health attendants to touch their children in the presence of the WPA Division of Professional and Service Projects in the nation's metropolises were fearful that the plan to inoculate the children of these families against contagious diseases would be opposed.

To the surprise of WPA health leaders the opposition to inoculation against diseases was not as great as anticipated. The WPA Baby Health Service at its five baby health stations in Manhattan was reduced to zero.

During the month of March children up to the age of nine were registered for the health service. For the month there were 10,000 children registered. The stations were located at the following addresses: Mary C. Tansy, director of the Division of Professional and Service Projects, reported that the stations were very popular. The stations were very popular. The stations were very popular.

The WPA Baby Health Service does not conflict with the work of a similar station carried on by the Board of Health of Greater New York.

Menace of the Unemployed Army

The social menace of a permanent unemployed army was presented in trenchant terms in an address by William Allen White, editor of the Emporia (Kansas) Gazette, before the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors at Washington, D. C., Mr. White, who was the retiring president of the Society, declared that the unemployed army was a menace to the nation because of their "large property investment, have taken the side of property unconditionally in many of the nation's recent wars."

"It was bad enough," he said, "to have a large army of unemployed men to maintain the life rich, but in addition, we of the middle class now have to maintain the life poor and then the life rich, sooner or later our resources will be gone."

Ohio Judge Rebukes Wage Chiseler

States authorizing the establishment of minimum wages for women was an evidence of good citizenship, Judge Schumann said.

"In this country we have a very few very bad and very dangerous men," he said.

A. F. of L. COUNCIL OPPOSES ARAB CONTROL OF PALESTINE

Appeals to British Government to Keep its Solemn Pledge to Maintain a Jewish National Home in the Holy Land.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service. Washington, D. C., May 19.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in session here, strongly and unanimously approved the British government's decision to establish an independent Jewish state in Palestine. The position of the Council was made public in the following statement by its President, William Green:

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor learned through press reports of the probable abandonment of the Balfour Declaration by the British Government. Such action on the part of the British Government would be a complete repudiation of its solemn pledge to the Jewish people to maintain a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

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A. F. of L. and LABOR BOARD ABANDON CONFERENCES

Federation Announces It Will Continue to Press Vigorously for the Enactment of Its Amendments to the Labor Relations Act.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service. Washington, D. C., May 19.—The American Federation of Labor announced that they had been unable to agree on proposed amendments to the National Labor Relations Act and that no further conferences would be held.

Hearings held by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor on the National Labor Relations Board and the American Federation of Labor announced that they had been unable to agree on proposed amendments to the National Labor Relations Act and that no further conferences would be held.

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A. F. of L.'s Indictment of Labor Relations Board Is Unanswerable

Judge Padway's Five Days' Testimony Before Senate Committee on Education and Labor Proves Beyond Question That the Board Definitely Aims at the Destruction of the American Federation of Labor Unions and the Promotion of the C. I. O.; Board's Maladministration Can Be Prevented Only by Changing the Act by the A. F. of L. Amendments.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service. Washington, D. C., May 19.—One outstanding thing was clear at the conclusion of Judge Padway's five days' testimony before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor in favor of the amendments proposed by the A. F. of L. to the National Labor Relations Act contained in the Walsh bill introduced by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts in the Senate of the United States.

The purpose of the amendments is to change the Labor Act so that it will be impossible for any National Labor Relations Board to maladministrate the Act and Labor in favor of the C. I. O. and against the American Federation of Labor and in favor of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Relying on the record of the Labor Relations Board, Judge Padway built up his case, hour by hour and day after day, the well-documented evidence of the Board to outlaw the A. F. of L. and to promote the C. I. O. and to prevent the American Federation of Labor from being able to defend itself.

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All American Federation of Labor Policies Endorsed by Md.-D. C. Federation of Labor

Thirty-Five Hour Week for Federal Employees Urged by Annual Conference of the Federation of Labor in Washington, D. C., May 19.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service. Washington, D. C., May 19.—The 375 delegates attending the thirty-fourth annual conference of the Maryland-District of Columbia Federation of Labor here today adopted a resolution endorsing all present policies of the American Federation of Labor.

The convention urged the adoption of the thirty-five hour week for Federal employees, the elimination of discrimination against workers, and the elimination of discrimination against workers.

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CEMENT WORKERS GIVEN A. F. of L. CHARTER

New International Union Has 93 Locals, 94 Signed Agreements, and Over 15,000 Dues-Paying Members.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service. Washington, D. C., May 19.—President of the American Federation of Labor announced that the new International Union of Cement Workers, which was organized in Washington, D. C., last week, has 93 locals, 94 signed agreements, and over 15,000 dues-paying members.

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\$845,000,000 Fund For Low-Rent Housing Approved by Senate

Senator Ellender Says Measure Will Not Add to Public Debt; Chairman Bates of A. F. of L. Housing Committee Vows Employment For Hundreds of Thousands of Jobless When Bill Is Enacted by Congress.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service. Washington, D. C., May 19.—The Senate Committee on Education and Labor approved the bill introduced by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York to create a fund of \$845,000,000 for the construction of low-rent housing and the promotion of slum clearance.

The bill would also authorize the use of the fund for the construction of low-rent housing and the promotion of slum clearance.

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